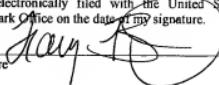


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/688,221  
Confirmation No. : 9468  
Applicant : Arnold E. Ruoho, *et al.*  
  
Filed : October 16, 2003  
Title : BACTERIORHODOPSIN/G  
PROTEIN-COUPLED  
RECEPTOR CHIMERICAS  
  
TC/A.U. : 1649  
Examiner : Brannock, Michael T.  
  
Docket No. : 096429-9146-US02  
  
Customer No. : 023510

I, Tracy Bruesewitz, hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date of my signature.

Signature



May 2, 2006

Date of Signature

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, and in response to the non-final office action mailed December 5, 2005, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment, reconsideration on the merits, and allowance of the claims. This response is accompanied by a request for a two-month extension of time extending the period for reply from March 5, 2006 to May 5, 2006, and by the appropriate fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(2).

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 5.